

### **ABSTRACT**

A method and system are presented for use in controlling the quality of a reticle. The method includes processing and analyzing reference data and test data, and generating output data indicative of the current condition of the reticle. The  
5 reference data is indicative of at least a portion of a reference pattern, which is produced on a reference article by using said reticle, when in a satisfied condition. The test data is indicative of a test pattern produced on an identical article using said reticle when in the current condition, a certain time period after said reticle has been in use or stored.